

ST. NEKTARIOS

2019-20 MINISTRY GUIDE

Exploring Parish Life Opportunities
that Enrich our Faith, our Family, our Community

Set Sail

*for a New Year of
Worship, Witness,
Fellowship and Service*



Exploring our Opportunities



*The Presentation of St. Nektarios to
Our Lord Jesus Christ
20th Anniversary Commemorative Icon*

our Lord's ministry, and continue to put our Orthodox faith and ministries into *action*. In our Orthodox lives, faith is *active*. Faith is a continuous transformative practice of our walk to be in union with God. Through our faith, we are called to love God and love one another as Jesus loves us.

***Be doers of the word, and not hearers only...
(James 1:22)***

The direction of our ministries -- Worship, Witness, Fellowship and Service -- is set by our Lord Jesus Christ. Each of us must find how to share our God-given gifts to support Christ's work through the ministry that best calls us to service. We are called to become "doers of the word," striving to seek God's glory, not personal glory. Jesus Christ's abundant grace knows no limits, and our ministries have the same unlimited potential.

Please review the opportunities in this guide to offer your time and your talents in His service.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Mark 5:16)

Mission Statement

St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church is dedicated to the continuation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's ministry of salvation through the proclamation and teaching of the Gospel; through Baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and through loving service to God and mankind.

Vision Statement

The community will provide a loving, caring and welcoming environment where all belong and grow in the faith through worship, service, witness and fellowship.

Welcome to St. Nektarios

***All Things are Possible
to the One Who Believes in Christ. (Mark 9:23)***

In 2018, St. Nektarios united as a community to celebrate our 20th anniversary of service to God and mankind. As we now move into our next decade, each of us is called to build upon our first twenty years of service to

Get involved – Set Sail!

- In this Guide, you will find descriptions of ministries for all different ages, talents and time commitments. At the end of the Guide, you will find the contact information listed for each ministry. Of course, if you have any questions, you may call the church office at 704-708-4669 or email volunteer@stnektarios.org.
- Complete the Interest Form included in this Guide and return to the church office or drop it in the offertory basket.
- Watch email, mail, missal and other communications, or contact the church office or any ministry member at any time to join a team! Check out ministry updates on our website www.stnektarios.org.



Leading our Community



Parish Leadership

St. Nektarios strives to truly be a ministry-centered church,

which is bound to the non-negotiable mission established by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to

“Go therefore and make disciples of ALL nations.”

The leadership opportunities within the parish not only include serving as a member of Parish Council but, leadership positions within the ministry structure of our parish, and other committees established in the course of the life of the church. We look to our leaders to reflect on where we have been, where we are today, and where we need to go as a vibrant parish. Our road map is our Mission and Vision Statements and our Defined Strategic Directions (see back panel). Strong leadership skills are necessary to direct the parish into the future. Parish Members are encouraged to become active in the life of the church as volunteers at any level of responsibility.

Parish Council

The Parish Council is comprised of 11 individuals seeking to serve God through being servant-leaders to our Priests, our ministries, and our community. While Parish Council members are diverse in age, length of membership, skills, level of financial giving, and interests, all members share a joy of working together in furthering the ministries and building a Christ-centered parish of faith and love. As servant leaders, they are key participants in setting the future direction of the community and maintaining the principles of our Mission and Vision.

Duties and responsibilities of Council members range from ensuring the good governance of the community, discussing long range plans, reviewing monthly

financials, interacting with staff, helping with church-wide events such as Community Fun Day and the Pasha Celebration, to promoting strong ministry programs and activities. They strive to connect with our parishioners, greeting and ushering during worship services and building our church family relationships.



Ministry Departments Directors and Team Leaders

Through our ministry structure, our various Ministry Departments Directors and their team leaders have ownership to accomplish their goals and objectives that are in keeping with our Mission. They develop ways to serve others within and beyond St. Nektarios. We see our clergy as a resource and spiritual father to the ministries with the Parish Council providing material support and leadership, equipping our ministries. Our ministries flourish giving birth to sub-ministries and new ministries. With each new ministry or sub-ministry, a new leadership position is created. This allows even more people to become intimately involved in the direction of parish life and feel ownership in the community, which in turn creates an excitement and a desire to continue our Lord's ministry through St. Nektarios.



Strategic Planning Session with Clergy, Parish Council and Ministry Leaders

Finding our Place

Outreach & Welcome Ministry

Welcome Team: Volunteers welcome visitors and members to the Divine Liturgy every Sunday. They provide information to our visitors and to those interested in becoming members or being placed on our mailing list. Each potential member is called by a parish priest, then Welcome Team members follow up twice to help assimilate newcomers.

Newcomer Events: Organizes Newcomer Sunday for new and prospective members to help them become acquainted with other members. Introduces

them to our various church ministries, and answers general questions on church membership.

Outreach Initiatives: Includes hosting open houses to our Charlotte neighbors, developing welcome materials for those who are new to the parish, and preparing materials for those exploring Orthodoxy. Past events have included reaching out to interfaith couples, non-Orthodox, and inactive Orthodox, to welcome and encourage their participation in the life of the church.



Sharing our Gifts in Worship

Liturgical Ministry



“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.”

Psalms 95:6-7

As Orthodox Christians, we believe that God reveals Himself through Holy Tradition and Scripture. *Worship* is the living expression of these. It is important to be active participants in the sacramental and prayer life of the church.



Music Ministry Mission: Through the style of Byzantine chant, our church musicians lead the congregation in the liturgical dialogue of our worship services.



Adult Choirs: Our participants commit themselves to learning the hymns of our Orthodox faith and understanding the sequence of our liturgical worship. On a typical Sunday, the Men's and Women's Choirs sing antiphonically from the Solea. Highly valued skills needed to participate in these choirs include the ability to read music, sing in tune, and read English. Those interested in joining are asked to contact Jeff Clewell, director of the men's choir or Dina Marinakos, director of the women's choir.

Youth Choirs: It is no secret, that people who begin singing in church when they are teenagers like it so much, that they never give it up. Currently, youth sing with our adult singers. Recruitment is announced in the church communiqués. Girls interested may contact Dina Marinakos; boys contact Jeff Clewell.

Readers: Willing and capable adults read the Epistle Lessons in church during the Divine Liturgy on Sundays. Readers are scheduled on a rotation basis.



Acolyte Service: Young men, fourth grade and older, have the awesome opportunity to serve in the Altar in both ceremonial and supportive ways. The boys learn their roles and responsibilities through workshops and on-the-job training. In ninth grade, the boys are eligible to earn the rank of a Black Robe. Acolytes are assigned to teams that rotate Sundays and serve on special feast day services. Adults are also welcome to serve as Acolyte supervisors. All adults working with youth must consent to a background check and youth protection training.



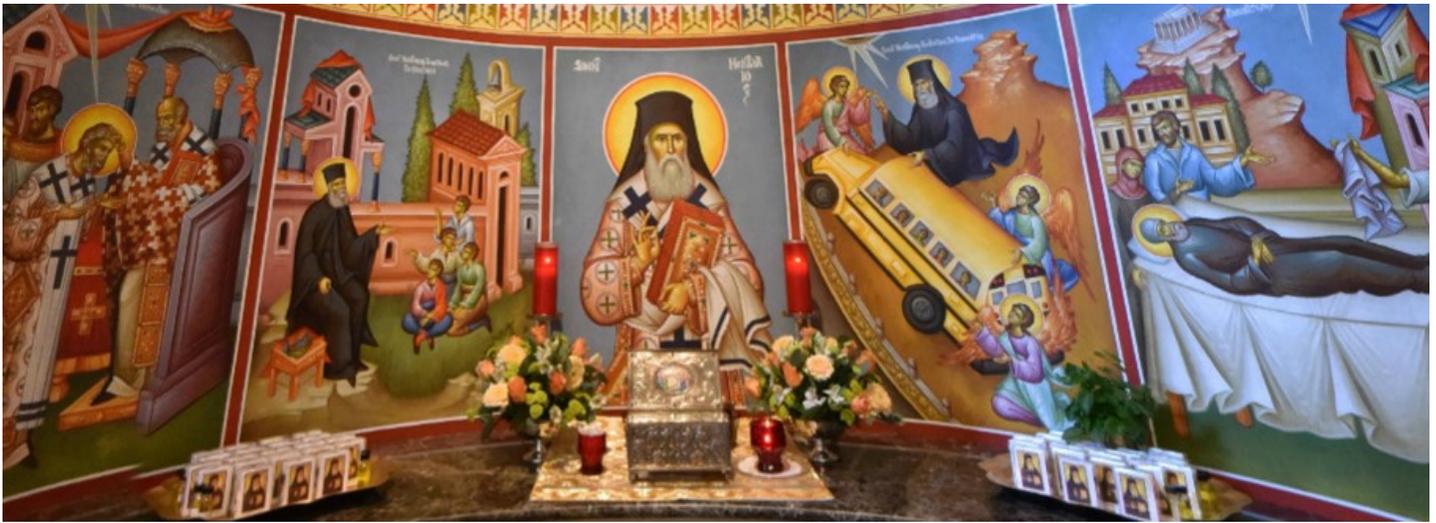
Sanctuary & Altar Care: Volunteers assist our priests with any special requirements in the Altar/Sanctuary throughout the year, help maintain liturgical items, set-up for special services and also provide behind the scenes support and active participation during services.

Sanctuary Captains: Captains serve as a welcome to the congregation and oversee the safe and orderly flow of the congregation. Captains are responsible for the opening and closing of our sanctuary and supervise the ushers on duty.

Usher Team: Team members serve on Sundays on a rotation basis and for special feast day services. They assist with the comfort and safety of our congregation, monitor candles, pass collection baskets, and provide minor housekeeping duties at the end of services.



Sharing our Gifts in Worship



St. Nektarios Shrine: With the blessing of housing the relics of St. Nektarios comes the responsibility of making the shrine available to pilgrims and worshippers. Volunteers assemble hundreds anointing kits annually to offer to families to take home and to mail to those who request them from all over the world.



Altar Flowers: Volunteers who like to work with flowers may help arrange those that adorn the Iconostasion, narthex, shrine and sanctuary throughout the year. Flowers may be donated in honor of a family member's feast day, in memory of a loved one or friend, on the occasion of a holiday, or simply as a gift to the community of St. Nektarios.



Safety & Security Ministry: Volunteers monitor and assist with the safety and well-being of our clergy, congregation and guests, helping to create a safe distraction-free worship environment. Teams of volunteers serve on Sundays on a rotation basis and on other special occasions. Volunteers are asked to apply, submit to a background check, and attend required training sessions.



Sacrament & Service Support: Guidance and assistance is offered to families for the necessary items and/or to prepare for Baptisms, Chrismations, Weddings, and Memorials.



Prosfora: We require about 10 loaves of prosfora for each Sunday service. Volunteers are needed to make the prosfora either at home or at church on periodic baking days.



AV Support & Recording: The team consists of a leader who recruits, trains, and schedules the service volunteers. The service volunteers work on a rotational basis covering Sunday services and when possible, the various weekday services. The volunteers are trained to launch the audio system and the web streaming of the services in the sanctuary. They monitor the audio levels during the services and shut down the system at the conclusion.



Preparing our Youth

Youth Ministry

Stay connected

snyouth@stnektarios.org
FB /StNektariosYouth
Insta @StNektariosYouth



Archdiocese of America's curriculum. Teacher workshops are provided at various times throughout the year, and all volunteers receive online Youth Safety training prior to serving.

JOY/HOPE: JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth, Grades 3-5) and HOPE (Hellenic Orthodox Primary Education, PK-Grade 2) Youth participate in retreats, service projects, and family gatherings during the year. Our **First Fridays** program, which meets on the first Friday of each month from September through April, provides an opportunity for families to gather for fun, learning, and fellowship.

Volunteers assist in planning events, leading activities, or providing supplies.



Vacation Church Camp:

Be part of a week of summer fun in June with our JOY/HOPE aged Youth – learning, crafts, music, games, and more! Volunteer opportunities available for adults and teens.

Mission:

To educate and prepare our Youth for a lifetime of spiritual growth as Orthodox Christians.

Youth Safety: Working with Youth requires an understanding of various issues related to safety, confidentiality, management, and incident reporting. Any volunteers who participate in activities and events as **Youth Workers** must complete online training and a background check in accordance with the **Archdiocesan Policies for the Safety of Youth and Children**. Registration for the training is offered on an ongoing basis.



Youth Advisory Board: Helps provide ongoing support as a board member or ministry liaison. The YAB meets regularly from August through June with the Director of Youth Ministries to develop, plan, implement, and review Youth programming and events to ensure a well-rounded, integrated approach to achieving the Youth Ministry Mission.



Youth Catechism: Share your faith by teaching or assisting in a Youth Catechism classroom; or, share your time by serving as a hall/safety monitor. Classes are offered on Sundays after the homily from September through May. Our program spans PK through 12th Grade and follows the Greek Orthodox

GOYA: Our GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America, Grades 6-12) is involved in a variety of retreats, tournaments, and trips throughout the year. Orthodox Life ("O-Life") meets for weekly sessions in the fall and spring for worship, witness, service, and fellowship. Volunteer to chaperone, donate supplies, or provide transportation on an event-by-event basis.

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival:

Support our Youth as they engage in this opportunity to write and speak about their faith. The Festival is an annual event sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America which takes place during Lent. Volunteer to be a writing/speaking coach or to be a judge or time-keeper at our parish-level competition.

Myrrh bearers: On Holy Friday our 4-6 grade girls accompany the Kouvouklion as it is carried around the church during the Lamentations service.



Preparing our Youth

Youth Athletics: Be a part of Spartan Ball! Volunteers help during basketball season and/or tournament play (Winter Youth Rally, Queen City Classic, etc.) by coaching teams, assisting coaches, or providing clerical support.



Campus Ministry — Keeping our College Students Connected to the Community and to the Faith!



Secret Saint Program: Similar to a “secret pal”, Secret Saints support our college students during their time away from home. Secret Saints participate in care package events over the course of the academic year and commit to remembering their college students once a month with a card, note, letter or small gift. Secret Saints will be revealed to students during a special event at the end of each academic year.



St. Phoebe Ministry for Girls and Young Women:

This new ministry offers opportunities for service and leadership to girls in grades 4-12. Participants serve in the Narthex and Sanctuary on Sundays, assist in baking prosfora, and take part in



service projects in the local community. Volunteers assist with training, supervising, and chaperoning activities and events.

Dance Troupes: Come and share your love of ethnic dance with our Youth! Volunteers are needed to teach classes for a variety of ages. Dates and times based on space and volunteer availability.

Scouting:

St. Nektarios is a charter organization for Pack and Troop 490. Cub Scouts (Grades 1-5), and Boy Scouts (Grades 6-12) are all active within the parish. Weekly Scout meetings, for both the Pack and the Troop, are held on Sunday afternoons during the school year. Parent volunteers are needed to serve as leaders and to provide event support. All volunteers complete BSA and Archdiocese Youth Safety Training.



Orthodox Christian Fellowship: In cooperation with this national ministry under the direction of the Assembly of Bishops, we help connect young adults from our parish with their college or university's OCF chapter. Volunteers provide registration information to students and, if needed, assist in setting up new chapters.



Greek Language School

Learn Greek: This tuition based program is offered when a minimum number of registered students is met. Sign-up for our Greek language program and discover the incredible benefits of learning a second language! Classes are held once per week during the school year.



Growing in our Faith

Adult Religious Education

Discover our Hidden Treasures



... I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the riches hidden in secret places ...
so that you may know that I am the God of Israel!

cf. Isaiah 45:3

Overview:

We are proud to present to you our lineup for Adult Religious Education for the coming year. Most of these programs will begin in September and carry through until next May. Please make sure you register for these programs during our A.R.E. (Adult Religious Education) kick-off program following Divine Liturgy on September 29th. After you register, you can pick up your copy of our new Hidden Treasures Companion Manual which will have complete schedules of all our programs and some informative and interesting articles to help you in your spiritual endeavors.

Becoming Orthodox:

During the three sessions, we answer questions that non-Orthodox people have about the faith and help them understand what it means to enter the Orthodox faith through Holy Chrismation, should they choose to do so. For those who plan to be chrismated and cannot make the sessions, appointments with a priest can be arranged to fit your schedule.

This class is also appropriate for those already Orthodox who would like to learn more or review the basics of the faith. Topics include a guide to the



Divine Liturgy, an overview of church history, understanding Holy Tradition, the development of The Creed, the nature of the Holy Trinity and more.

Growing in Faith Classes:

Themed classes are offered on weekday evenings over a four to six week period in the fall and winter.

Presenters include

Fr. Steve,

Fr. Nektarios, Fr.

Paul, Dr. Phillip

Walker and Gerry Clonaris. This year's topics include The History of Scripture, The Psalms, Archeology, Iconography, Our Hymns, The Divine Liturgy, Orthodox Parenting and The History of Our Church.



Book Discussion—Orthodox Parenting:

This class will explore the newly acclaimed Orthodox Parenting book, "Parenting Toward the Kingdom" by Dr. Philip Mamalakis. During our sessions we will discuss the various challenges of parenting presented in the book as well as the methods that Dr. Mamalakis gives to guide any parent or caretaker.

Men's Study Group:

Men are invited to weekly sessions on Thursdays or Fridays for Compline service followed by fellowship. On occasion, we participate in service projects.

Through focused discussions, readings and study, participants will acquire the Timeless Orthodox Mindset. This year's topics include Orthodox Survival Course (An Orthodox Reading of History), Advent Reading and discussion of becoming Christ-bearers, Orthodox Witness as practiced through the centuries, and A Diversity of Gifts. Meeting dates are determined through a text group. Join by contacting Basil Polivka at 980-328-8975.

Women's Bible Study:

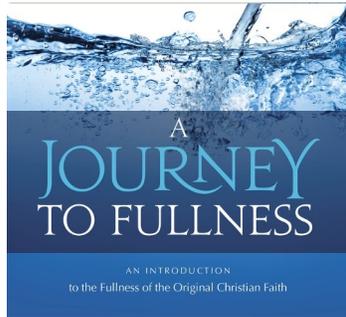
Ladies are invited on Wednesday mornings to a Paraklesis service followed by structured study on books of the Old and New Testaments. The participants prepare for each session with reading assignments to facilitate discussion and time with clergy for further understanding. Childcare will be



Growing in our Faith

available.

This fall we will be watching the video series by Fr. Barnabas Powell, *A Journey to Fullness: An Introduction to the Fullness of the Original Christian Faith*. After each video session, we will have a discussion with the clergy.



This winter, we will resume our Bible study with the Gospel of John. More details pending.

Treasures Alive Presentations (TAP):

Formally known as the Speakers Series, we have updated our theme name as it now includes such greatly anticipated presentations as the annual Opera Carolina Christmas at St. Nektarios Concert (Sunday, December 1, 2019) and renowned guest speakers. Many of the Jewels of The Hidden Treasures will be presented in combination with our other programs, such as Lent, Lunch & Learn. Additional information is provided in the other A.R.E. sections. Check the church calendar for speakers, holiday specials, Festival of Faith, Metropolis Forums, and charity concerts by Opera Carolina Chorus and a possible return by Charlotte Symphony Singers.

Christmas Program: A.R.E. will be assisting with the 2019 Program.



This community-wide presentation will include the Liturgical Music Ministry, Youth Department and featuring those in our community who will share their musical

talents in the holiday celebration of the birth of our Lord.

Lent, Lunch & Learn:

We are coming off of our best year of LL& L and we promise to make it even better. We already have confirmed Fr. Barnabas Powell from the Ancient Faith Radio Network to do a special presentation for our 2nd week (March 26th). Fr. Barnabas will also do two extended LL& L



presentations. One will be at 4:00 pm for all board members and ministry leaders and a dinner presentation at 6:00 PM. We also have a great potential line-up of Orthodox speakers still in the planning. Updates will be made in our weekly missals. Come join us for a great lunch and learn a little more about Lent and our Faith. Sessions will take place on four of the Thursdays during Lent. Lunch will be provided.



Come and See Family Night:

Throughout the year we partner with other ministries to offer a night for the whole family. These gatherings are formatted to include fellowship, youth activities and a presentation or discussion for the adults.

Administrative Support:

Volunteers help the Adult Religious Education Ministry provide a companion manual, website spiritual education, dinner/refreshment coordination, and audio recording.

Sharing Orthodoxy:

We offer presentations for other denominations and groups interested in our Orthodox faith. Contact the office to schedule.



Book Store

NARROW PATH
BOOKSTORE

The Narrow Path

Orthodox Christian Bookstore: A not-for-profit ministry that serves our congregation and others with Orthodox reading materials, home worship supplies, and icons. Volunteers are needed to operate the store one Sunday a month during Fellowship Coffee Hour.



Connecting with Each Other

Fellowship Ministry

“Behold how good and pleasing it is when brothers dwell in unity.”

Psalm 133:1

Fellowship is the way Orthodox Christians integrate their faith with daily life. It is sacred when Orthodox Christians gather together in our Lord's name. The relationship of the Holy Trinity is the perfect model of Fellowship—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit share perfect communion and exist in perfect love with each other. By gathering together in *fellowship* and experiencing this love, we emulate the relationship of the Trinity and develop our life in Christ.

Young Adult

Ministry: Our 18 to 35-year-old Young Adults grow together through service projects, socials, and discussion groups, staying connected through social media.



In 2017 our Young Adult Ministry was selected as a pilot parish to receive a multi-year grant from the **Telos Project**, to develop programs focusing on our 23 to 29-year-old members. Young adults, come and prepare yourselves to be the next generation of clergy, lay leaders, philanthropists, and volunteers who will serve in the Orthodox Church well into the 21st century.

Facebook: St. Nektarios Young Adult Ministry
Instagram: St.nektariosyam

GOYANS Gone Gray: This ministry bridges the gap between the Young Adult Ministry (18-35 years old) and Young at Heart (55 and over). Its mission is to stay connected, build relationships, reminisce and put faith into action. This group has established the St. Nektarios Medical Assistance Fund. They “reunite” once each year to raise money for those in our community experiencing extraordinary health challenges. Since its inception, over \$90,000 has been raised and distributed to our fellow Orthodox.



Young at Heart: Offers a social and supportive network, which fosters relationships among our senior members 55 and older. There are seven

regular meetings per year with time for fellowship, activities, speakers, day-outings, overnight get-aways, annual Christmas Dinner celebration, service projects, and more.

Book Club: The Great Gatsby, Pride and Prejudice, Huckleberry Finn...Did you actually read these classics in high school or were you just supposed to? *Better Late Than Never* is a book club organized to re-visit (or read for the first time) some classics and chat about them over coffee. Book Club meets one evening per month at a local coffee shop.

Adult Athletics: Groups come together for pick-up games, organized leagues, a Softball Challenge fundraiser for youth athletics, or whatever comes up.

Hospitality Ministry

Sunday Fellowship Coffees and Meals:

Volunteers sign up to support the Sunday Fellowship Coffee hours and Fellowship meals that follow the Divine Liturgy. Trained groups of six to eight persons rotate Sundays to set-up, serve and clean-up. The groups also assist parishioners who host coffee hours.



Fellowship Meals: This volunteer kitchen crew prepares meals for special Sunday luncheons, ministry events and fundraisers.

Special Receptions: Volunteers host and offer receptions for special occasions and feast days.



Being Friends of the Poor

Philoptochos

The word “philoptochos” means “friends of the poor”. It does not begin to describe the many facets of our women’s philanthropic organization. Our chapter is part of a national organization of over 30,000 members.



Our chapter seeks to serve those in need within and beyond our parish community. They help world wide victims of natural disasters, support mission work, and contribute to the parish Benevolence Fund to help our parishioners. Every year thousands of dollars are raised and distributed to local, national, and international charities. Funds are collected through various second trays passed on Sunday

and through fundraising efforts.

Our chapter partners with our various parish ministries in support and fulfillment in many of their philanthropic outreach initiatives.

As they do this work, our members find not only the joy of giving and helping, but also in creating fellowship and treasured friendships among its members.

Upcoming Activities include:

- ◆ **Bake Sales** are not just for those who know how to bake Greek pastries. It is an opportunity for those who want to learn. Volunteers bake, pack, & sell the pastries.
- ◆ **Bereavement Ministry** goes into action when a member of the community passes away and his/her immediate family does not have an extended support network to help with the arrangements.
- ◆ **Blankets of Love** calls for all Knitters and Crocheters to help make blankets for children served by Levine’s Children’s Hospital.
- ◆ **Christmas Lunch & Fashion Show** is held the first Saturday of December to raise funds for a local charity. Volunteers sell tickets, solicit sponsorships, collect door prizes, work the check-in table, decorate, and help at the event.
- ◆ **Hazel’s Helping Hands** distributes fleece blankets for use in the neonatal section of CMC Hospital.
- ◆ **Holy Week Preparation** begins on Saturday of Lazarus with making Palm Crosses; during the week dying eggs and assembling luminaries; and on Holy Friday decorating the Kouvouklion.



◆ **Luncheons, Socials, and Receptions** are planned by volunteers for special events at church. The annual Palm Sunday Luncheon is one of the Ladies’ signature events which helps fund their charitable work.

◆ **Serving Charlotte -- Local Philanthropies** — While attending meetings is informative and business is conducted, they are also used as an opportunity to serve others in our “back yard”; Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) and St. Peter’s Soup Kitchen, among others. Our ladies also go off-site to offer their time walking for a cause, sorting food, and more.

SIP ‘N SEE — Supporting Other Parish Ministries is one way the Ladies offer their time and talent. With our members’ lives becoming busier, we are bringing Philoptochos to them as they participated in other church activities. Working with Life and Family Ministries’ **Visiting Partners**, “shut ins” stay connected to the church through volunteers preparing and delivering holiday baskets to them. Women’s Bible Study brings together women of all demographics. JOY.HOPE First Fridays offers the opportunity to engage with our youth to encourage them to be future members.

Chapter Challenge: Our Philoptochos Chapter has been chosen to represent the Metropolis of Atlanta for the 2020 Chapter Challenge.

What is a Chapter Challenge?

Nine chapters are selected in consultation with the Metropolis Presidents, one from each Metropolis, at each National Convention. They are given \$100 seed money each and the challenge is to select a project that reflects the work of Philoptochos. Chapters develop, design, and implement a project of their own creation and choice. Some suggestions are literacy, the disabled, food bank, shelter for women and/or children developmentally challenged children, and Alzheimer’s. Projects are monitored and the chapters report and share their experience at the subsequent Convention. The first group of chapters presented at the 2006 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention. (excerpt from <http://www.philoptochos.org/resources/chapter-hallenges>)

St. Nektarios’ Goal of the Chapter Challenge

Provide needed improvements to the waiting area of Shelter Health Services so that the women and children who are served are welcomed into a warm, caring and compassionate environment. Our goals are to refurbish the waiting area and renovate the small restroom. The deadline to complete this project is May 2020.



Serving Beyond St. Nektarios

Missions & Philanthropy Ministry

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (James 2:26)

Church Mouse Kit n' Kaboodle Resale Store:



The Church Mouse Kin n' Kaboodle Resale Store is now open. Located in the Spanish Trace Shopping Center on Monroe Road, its goal is to produce a regular and consistent source of funds that this ministry can then distribute to selected humanitarian/charitable programs. Donated goods from the parish community are sold to the general public. We are looking for interested people to volunteer at the store and provide logistical support in store operations. For more information contact Tim Klund at 704-

582-9200 or tklund@carolina.rr.com, or Fr. Steve at 704-708-4669 or frsteve@stnektarios.org.

St. Nektarios Donation Center:

Two mobile collection bins are located in the downstairs elevator lobby of the Spiritual Life Center for parishioner's to drop off donated items for delivery to the needy. Items regularly collected include non-perishable food, clothing, coats, and toiletries. The collection bins are also available for use for one-time collection of particular items that may be advertised through church announcements and communication media.



Blood Drives: We sponsor blood drives annually (Red Cross and Blood Mobile). Volunteers help by recruiting donors and scheduling an appointment to donate during their visits to St. Nektarios, usually on a Sunday after service.



OCMC/IOCC: The Orthodox Christian Mission Center and International Orthodox Christian Charities are the Pan-Orthodox international, educational, charitable relief organizations of the Assembly of Bishops.



◆ **IOCC** is dedicated to humanitarian assistance brought on by natural disaster, war, famine and poverty. Ninety-two percent of IOCC's resources are used for humanitarian relief and development programs. Every dollar you give helps IOCC secure matching grants. St. Nektarios participates in the annual Charlotte IOCC Pan Orthodox Night event, this year hosted by St. Nektarios. Contact Missy Davis at 704-643-8243; or IOCC at www.iocc.org.

◆ **OCMC** recruits, trains and sends missionaries to preach, teach, baptize and to minister to the poor, hungry, sick, suffering and orphaned. It supports full-time missionaries and sponsors short-term mission teams to developing countries. For more information on programs, mission trips and involvement contact Tim Klund at 704-341-0582 or tklund@carolina.rr.com. The OCMC web site is www.ocmc.org.

Indonesia: An annual second tray is collected to benefit St. Demetrios Indonesian Orthodox Church and St. Sophia Orphanage in Sumatra, Indonesia.

Kenya-Child of God (COG): The Child of God (COG) is a non-traditional school and feeding program supported by parishioners and the Ladies Philoptochos of St. Nektarios to help orphans and disadvantaged children in Kawangware, Kenya (suburb of Nairobi). It has approximately 250 children in grades Pre-K through Grade 8. It is sanctioned by the Metropolitan of Kenya. The vision is to establish a recurring long term, multi-faceted program of support for orphans in programs sponsored by the Orthodox Church in Kenya. We seek financial contributions as well as volunteers to participate in mission trips to Kenya for teaching; and/or medical mission work in local clinics or the Coptic Hospital. For more information contact Tim Klund at 704-341-0582 or tklund@carolina.rr.com.



Crop Hunger Walk: The Crop Hunger Walk is an annual event sponsored by Church World Service. This year it is on Sunday, Oct. 20. Proceeds support both local and International relief work in support of the poor and hungry. St. Nektarios supports Crop Walk by organizing a walk team to solicit donation support. The Charlotte Walk has historically been the largest in the country in terms of walker participation and money raised. For more information contact Kate Caltis at 704-366-5013 or kate.caltis@gmail.com.

Prison Ministry: From the beginning of our parish, St. Nektarios has had volunteers participating in the Mecklenburg County Prison Ministry Program. The volunteers provide witness and Bible teachings in group discussion settings. Male and female volunteers may participate once an orientation program has been completed. Opportunities can extend beyond Mecklenburg County to other NC counties with additional training. For more information or to volunteer for this ministry contact Harry Lainis at 704-563-7414 or John Frangoulis at 704-516-2348 or john.frangoulis@gmail.com.

Samaritan's Feet (SF): St. Nektarios sponsors an annual shoe drive in support of the efforts of the locally-based charity, Samaritan's Feet. At the conclusion of the drive, a volunteer work session is scheduled at the SF warehouse to sort shoes for shipment with their mission teams who travel both domestically and internationally to supply shoes to those in need.



Serving Beyond St. Nektarios

Volunteer opportunities include financial support and participation on mission teams. For more information contact Phyllis Gianakopoulos at 704-576-5880 or ggianakopoulos@carolina.rr.com.

Friendship Trays: The principle meals-on-wheels program for Mecklenburg County, delivering balanced meals, in a caring and friendly manner, to those unable to prepare them on their own due to age or infirmity. Most participants live below the poverty level, but all contribute something toward offsetting the costs. St. Nektarios has been a source of volunteers to service a route for several years. For more information please contact Irene Liapis at 704-243-7376 or irene@carolina.rr.com.



The Harvest Program: Donated food from grocery stores and restaurants is made available for pick up and delivery to soup kitchens/pantries serving the poor. Volunteer opportunities exist for drivers to participate in the weekly pick up route. We pick up from the Matthews Whole Foods, Carrabba's, and Outback Steakhouse and deliver to the Matthews Help Center and downtown to St. Peter's Soup Kitchen.

Salvation Army Center of Hope/ Shelter Health

Services: The Salvation Army Center of Hope is a 314 Bed homeless shelter that sleeps up to 425 homeless women and children every night. Shelter Health Services is a 100% free health care clinic on the grounds of the Center of Hope.

◆ **Story Time at the Shelter** — On periodic Saturdays, we serve the children at the Center of Hope who are displaced from normal life, in an uncertain existence, with little to no access to programs outside of the public schools. Our goal is to provide compassionate, fun, educational programs. Our format mirrors a public library story time program, geared towards preschool-aged children. It currently consists of reading 4 stories aloud to the group, leading the children through action songs, group activities, a craft and a snack. We are in need of supplies and help prepping materials. Volunteer opportunities exist through the Center of Hope to serve these children. For more information contact Joe and Larissa Tristano at joeandlarissat@gmail.com

◆ **Book Rack** — We are stocking and maintaining a small bookrack of reading materials for the women and children served by Center of Hope and Shelter Health Services. Share your gently used novels, books, faith-based materials and magazines by dropping off at the church Donation Center.



The Holy Unmercenaries Medical Society:

As a Metropolis-wide ministry, our parish has organized a local chapter of healthcare professionals for the development of its members' spiritual well-being. Through its "**Matthew 25 Ministry**", the organization strives to give freely unto others the love, mercy, and healing ministry of Jesus Christ

through worship, education, service, and philanthropy. As Christ identified with the "least" (Matt. 25), they try to recognize that it is Christ Himself who is hidden within every person who suffers and to continually offer themselves in the service of others and to Christ. Some medical personnel at St. Nektarios, donate their time at Shelter Health Services, a clinic operated on the site of the Salvation Army Center of Hope serving homeless women and children.

St. Nektarios Annual 5K Run — Fighting Homelessness by Building Dignity One Step at a Time: In 2018, St. Nektarios started an annual 5K run as a fundraiser to support the Shelter Health Services. Their goal

is to mobilize our friends, families, and communities to transform the lives of others. This year's event will be held on Saturday Nov 23. You can volunteer to help with organizing and set up for the event, as a participant, or make a contribution to the good cause. More information may be obtained by contacting Kholoud at 704-497-4870 or kalyateem@yahoo.com.



Matthews Help Center (MHC):

The MHC operates in much the same way as that of the Crisis Assistance & Urban Ministry Centers of Mecklenburg County, but only serves Matthews. They provide short term assistance for life essentials. They operate the Backporch Treasures Thrift Boutique, a clinic, and a food pantry in addition to other social services for the needy. St. Nektarios delivers donated food and clothing to the pantry and store. Volunteer opportunities are available also. Website: www.matthewshelpcenter.org

Loaves & Fishes (Scouting For Food): A local philanthropic program that provides emergency food supplies to the community through 20 pantries located throughout Mecklenburg County. Participation comes in the form of food drives, financial donations, volunteering, and in-kind supplies and services from the local community. St. Nektarios maintains a food barrel in the Spiritual Life Center downstairs elevator lobby for canned and packaged food stuffs. For more information contact the Scouts through Matt Joyner at 704-617-0710 or mjoyner@bdj-law.com.

Second Trays: Monthly we pass a second offertory tray for a specific organization or need, alternating between Missions and Philoptochos: Jan.-St. Basil's; Feb.-OCMC; Mar.-Clergy Education Fund; Apr.-Holy Cross; May-Project Mexico; June-unassigned; July-Mexico Metropolis; Aug.-Indonesia, ; Sept.-Holy Cross; Oct.-Gala charity; Nov.-Patriarchate or IOCC; Dec.-St. Nicholas Shrine. Other trays include the Prison Ministry, Angel Tree, Metropolis of Atlanta and the Diakonia Retreat Center. On the five Sundays of Lent we use second trays as alms-giving opportunities in our Finding Lazarus Initiative.

Other Philanthropy: Various other ministries of the church will conduct or participate in events or fund-raising efforts for specific philanthropic and charitable organizations or causes. They may be one time events or as needed support but not subject to specific reference here. Recent efforts include: Free Dental Clinic (MOM); Beds For Kids; Carolina Breast Friends; A Child's Place; Philoptochos; Goyans Gone Gray; Love, Inc.; Salvation Army Angel Tree; and Night to Shine (Tim Tebow Foundation). For more information contact Kate Caltis at 704-366-5013 or kate.caltis@gmail.com.

Volunteers make regular pick-ups of donated foods from Harris Teeter, Dunkin Donuts, and Panera Bread for delivery to the Matthews Help Center food pantry; or when closed, to needy families at St. Nektarios.

The Ladies Philoptochos is a separate organization operated by its own board of officers for the purpose of supporting numerous philanthropic endeavors, local, national, and international. Please see separate summary in this guide of their charitable work and supported projects.



Sharing our Gifts

Life & Family Ministry

STRENGTHENING EACH OTHER THROUGH OUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

Preparing for the Journey of Marriage:

A required one-day workshop offered by the Metropolis of Atlanta for couples getting married in the Orthodox Church. St. Nektarios is one of the regional sites that hosts the workshop. Volunteers assist with room set-up, snacks, and lunch.

Newly Married Couples:

With materials provided by the Metropolis, this program for couples married seven years or less, focuses on building relationships and promoting discussions among couples within our community.

Marriage Counseling & Relationship Support: Offers information and support for newlyweds, for marriage enrichment, for those facing separation and/or divorce, and to respond to the unique joys and challenges of families where both spouses are not Orthodox or one is a new Orthodox.

Strengthening Couples & Their Families:

This ministry has been put into place to arm couples and families with tools and provisions to lift each other in their Christian walk, and tackle the struggles parents face in today's society. We have had sessions on Surviving The Teenage Years, Dealing with Social Media Woes, reading and having open discussions on articles such as "The Scary Truth about What's Hurting Teens."



SERVING EACH OTHER'S NEEDS

Caring for the Care Giver Support:

A gathering where care givers feel safe to share problems, solutions, and other information, with each other, in order to offer support. This gathering will foster caring for each other, belonging, oneness and camaraderie. We will bare each others burdens and share each others joys.

Visiting Partners: In addition to pastoral visits, a dedicated group of lay volunteers regularly visit and keep in touch with those in our community who are not able to make it to church due to short-term or long



-term issues. Our partners also deliver gift baskets for our "shut-ins" at Christmas and Easter to make their holidays a little extra special.

Grief Support: Offers support to those who are suffering a loss—a death in the family, career or job loss, divorce, and neonatal loss through the *Zoe Ministry*. Volunteers prepare angel ornaments inscribed with the names of children lost through miscarriage, in childbirth or soon after birth, for the annual memorial service in honor of St. Stylianos, patron saint of children.



FISH Food Ministry: Fellowship In Serving Hands provides meals to parish households who are in temporary need of assistance. Volunteers provide home-cooked meals that are frozen, stored at church, and distributed.

Helping Hands Ministry: A dedicated group performs minor repairs and yard work for parish members needing a special helping hand.

Career Ministry: This team creates an opportunity to connect employers with employees within our parish. It offers resume coaching. If you are involved in the hiring process, think of our parishioners first. We will be happy to place a job opening in the missal and newsletter.

Life Balance: Life Balance will have several different components of ministry that will deal with not only taking care of our physical body but, our spiritual well being. Presentations in the past include Navigating through Life Changes, Managing Stress over the holidays, Steps to a Compassionate Life, and providing resources as needs are identified. Shared articles such as "The Passions, Anger, Sorry and Sloth" is an example.

Military Ministry:

We honor our military service members and veterans, and thank them for their selfless service. We honor the fallen with a memorial service and the living with a special tribute. We are so extremely blessed and fortunate to live free. It is a privilege to take the time to reflect on the sacrifices made to protect that freedom.



Supporting our Ministries

Fund Development

Stewardship of Treasure: Promotes and manages the annual stewardship campaign to support our ministries via the operating fund.

Capital Development & Fundraising: Oversees capital campaigns for the Sanctuary mortgage, grounds maintenance, and the planned Ministry Center.

Financial Leadership Advisory Group: Is the group that reviews budgets, helps make financial forecasts, and ensures the integrity of the fiscal management of the church.

By-Laws: Is the committee that periodically reviews the Parish By-Laws to ensure they are current and consistent with the needs of the parish and Archdiocese Regulations.

Legacy and Endowments: This team ensures the long-term financial security of the parish by educating our parishioners on how to leave their mark and continue supporting the parish through estate planning

Property Management

Volunteers report to the Property Manager.

Property Advisory Committee: Assesses capital improvements and maintenance issues to ensure a safe and cared for property.



Property Crew: Assists with seasonal duties and repairs to include handy-man work, painting and cleaning.

Kitchen Committee: Oversees the maintenance and safe use of the kitchen and its equipment.

Landscape Committee: Plans and maintains seasonal beautification projects as well as long-range planning.

Administration & Communication Ministry

Volunteers assist the Church Staff which is charged with a variety of tasks within six major areas of responsibility:

1. **Worship Preparation, Sacraments, Pastoral Care and Support** with associated administrative support, such as volunteer scheduling, purchasing, and document

preparation.

2. **Membership Services** includes database management, welcoming, and documentation; supporting all ministry departments and over 300 volunteers.
3. **Event Management** (beyond Sundays) - Supporting over 160 ministry and Philoptochos events, and around 20 private events per year; which includes facility coordination, resource management, and hospitality and Kitchen Support.
4. **Financial Services & Fund Development** — Financial monitoring and preparation of reports for parishioners, Parish Council, the Metropolis & the Archdiocese. Contribution Processing – paper & electronic. Building Fund & Capital Campaign; Endowment Fund; Compliance for regulations and mortgage lender; Over 7,000 entries posted in 2017.
5. **Communications** — weekly Missal, monthly bulletin and newsletter, special appeals, guides – print, electronic, and web.
6. **Facilities Management** including Risk Management and Security; oversee and maintain 30,000 square feet in three buildings over 10 acres.

Administrative Office Support: Volunteers assist the staff during weekday office hours to answer phones, reproduce materials, offer clerical support, and help respond to parishioner inquiries.



Social Media: Responsible for a social media presence promoting the church's Mission and Vision Statements, in compliance with Archdiocese guidelines.

Website: Our parish has a presence on the World Wide Web. Staff maintains the site. Volunteers review the site for accuracy and keeping it current.

Information Technology: Volunteer specialists support our computer networks, hardware, software, and security.

Mailing Volunteers: Traditional mail is one of our communication delivery systems. Dedicated volunteers fold newsletters, place labels, collate materials, stuff envelopes, and sort for bulk mail.

Public Relations: Serves as liaison to the Archdiocese to promote Orthodox news items of interest to the local media and to assist with promoting the activities and events of the ministries to the greater community.

Archivist: Staff member coordinates the documentation of the historical records and events of the parish. Volunteer photographers are instrumental in creating a visual record for posterity.



Clergy, Parish Council, Staff, Ministry Directors and Team Leaders

Contact by email to volunteer@stnektarios.org
or call the church office at 704-708-4669

Fr. Steve Dalber, Protopresbyter
Fr. Nektarios Karantonis, Presbyter
Fr. Paul Tsahakis
Dn. Stephen Potter

2019 Parish Council

President: Charles Hubbard; *Vice President:* Christina Bonderer
Treasurer: Despina Gallis; *Assist. Treasurer:* Aka Vashakidze
Secretary: Jacob Saylor; *Assist. Secretary:* John Paul Tsahakis
Members: George Bacogeorge, Nadia Khoury Francis,
Teresa Jacob, Peter Keretsis and Teddy Poulos

Parish Administrator — Evelyn Klund
Director of Youth Ministries — Helen Giles

Administration Staff — Niki Kleto, Kim Braswell, Carol Jelush,
Silva Awaimrin, Sofia Nicolopoulos and Madalina Lowen (Consultant)

Property Manager — Tim Shelton

POSITION/MINISTRY	NAME
Liturgical	Evelyn Klund, Coordinator
St. Nektarios Shrine	Steve Constantelos
Acolyte Service	Sam Kleto
Sanctuary & Altar Care	Ron Drobonick
Sanctuary Captains & Ushers	Tommy Nickolopoulos
Safety & Security Monitors	John Tsefrikas
Prosfora	C. Asimos, R. Neary, P. Karres
AV Support & Recording	VACANT
Music	Fr. Nektarios Karantonis
Men's Choir	Jeff Clewell
Women's Choir	Dina Marinakos-Oara
Readers	Jeff Clewell
Hospitality	Vacant, Director
Sunday Fellowship Coffee Hour	Mike Neary
Adult Religious Education	Gerry Clonaris, Director
Treasures Alive Presentations	Peter Reinhart
Women's Bible Study	Maryann Zitsos
Men's Study Group	Daniel Houlis
Bookstore	Kathryn Baker-Mason, Manager
Youth Ministries	Helen Giles, Director
Youth Advisory Board	G. Clonaris, K. Kokenes, T. Coppola, K. Karavokiros, A. Maloney
Scouting	Laurel Bacogeorge, John Lowen
St. Phoebe Ministry	Christina Bonderer
Youth Athletics	Theo Karavokiros
Greek Language	Sophia Shinas
Fellowship	Evelyn Klund, Coordinator
Adult Athletics	Theo Karavokiros
Young Adults	Elizabeth Kleto, Advisor
GOYANS Gone Gray	Elaine Miller and Sandy Gallins
Book Club	Maria Demakis
Young at Heart	Mike and Ritsa Neary
Outreach and Welcoming	Vacant, Director
Welcome Team	Dee Drobonick
Newcomers	Helen Clonaris
Fund Development	Theodora Sexstone, Director
Capital Development	Peter B. Pappas



Our 7 Strategic Directions Glorifying God

- ◆ Reaching Others through "Radical Hospitality"
- ◆ Growing in the Orthodox Faith
- ◆ Establishing Bountiful Resources
- ◆ Developing Strong Leaders
- ◆ Expanding Connections through Technology and Communication
- ◆ Igniting Communities through Local Philanthropies
- ◆ Impacting the World: Beyond St. Nektarios

POSITION/MINISTRY	NAME
Missions & Philanthropy	Tim Klund, Director
Church Mouse Thrift Store	Dee Drobonick
Local Philanthropies	Katie Caltis
Prison Ministry	Harry Lainis & John Frangoulis
OCCM	Tim Klund
IOCC	Missy Davis
Friendship Trays	Irene Liapis
Crop Hunger Walk	Katie Caltis
Blood Drive	K. Balatsias, S. Anton, & T. Nixon
Indonesia	Tim Klund
Kenya-Child of God	Tim Klund
The Harvest Program	Tim Klund
HUMS	Dn. Paul Tsahakis
Samaritans Feet	Phyllis Gianakopoulos
Taking Steps 5 K	Kholoud Alyateem
Life and Family	Deidre Lepkowski
Newly Married Couples	Mary Dresser
Grief Support	Elissa Bahanovich
Zoe Ministry	Sandy Gallins
FISH Food Ministry	Becky Smith
Helping Hands	Aka Vashakidze
Life Balance	Kabee Kokenes, Life Coach
Military Ministry	Peter Keretsis
Visiting Partners	Tessa Dunn & Deidre Lepkowski
Property	Tim Shelton, Manager
Kitchen Management	Evelyn Klund
Campus Advisory Committee	Peter Keretsis, Sam Kleto, Ron Drobonick, Mark Malatras
Philoptochos	Niki Kleto, President